THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) Yes, there has been an increase in the number of AIDS cases reported in the country. This rise has been partly due to the expansion of the network of surveillance contres and intensive screening of high risk groups.

(b) 21 full blown AIDS cases have been detected since last three years in the country;

To prevent the spread of AIDS in the country, National AIDS control Programme is being implemented which has three major components viz. surveillance, Health & Community Education and ensuring safety of blood and blood products.

Surveillance

41 surveillance centres and 4 referral centres had been estabilshed in different parts of the country with specific objective of screening persons belonging to high risk groups *i.e.* prostitutes, Hetero-sexually promiscuous males, S. T. D. patients, Blood donors, Inmates of remand homes and foreigners.

Health and Community Education

Health Education activities have been intensified to increase awareness among general public youth and also students of schools and colleges.

Safety of blood and blood products

Another important measure for the prevention of AIDS in the country is testing of blood donors for HIV infection by all the surveillance centres and zonal blood testing centres.

To ensure safety of blood products, all the 9 units manufacturing blood products have been given appropriate instructions.

For clinical management of AIDS cases, facilities have been developed at 13 medical colleges of the country including All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

R / D Work for New Ayurvedic Medicines

1305. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: *Will the Minister of* HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that there is a demand for new Ayurvedic medicines which have a large market in our country and also there is demand abroad; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to strengther research and development work in this field work so that more new indigenous modicines are produced and brought into the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has not conducted any market survey in respect of demand of new Ayurvedic medicine.

(b) The Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha and other research organisations of Indian systems of Medicine are conducting research and developmental activities under their clinical and drug research programmes.